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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ERICK PARADIZO RIVERA EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION

KALAMAZOO, MI — 3/1/2023 The National Association of Flight Instructors is proud to announce that NAFI member Erick Paradizo Rivera has earned accreditation as a NAFI Master Flight Instructor.

Paradizo Rivera serves as an instructor pilot and director of safety for Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) in Nampa, Idaho. He said, “I have a deep passion dedication for teaching, service, and aviation.” Rivera has been flying for 16 years and teaching for nine years. He has more than 3,100 hours with nearly 2,400 hours dual given.

Rivera’s love of flying began in Ponce, Puerto Rico, where he grew up flying with his grandfather in a Cessna 150. He graduated in 2010 with a degree in aviation management at the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, while obtaining his private and instrument rating.



In 2012 Rivera moved to Nashville, Tennessee where he obtained his commercial, ASEL, AMEL, ASES, CFI, CFII, Remote Pilot, and ATP ratings, as well as earning an A&P mechanic certification. He flew Cessna 310s for Dialysis Clinic, Inc. as a contract pilot and became the senior instructor at Tennessee Flight Training. During this time, Rivera earned his AGI, IGI, and obtained a Gold Seal flight instructor designation. In 2018, he joined Mission Aviation Fellowship as a missionary pilot and mechanic.

At MAF, Rivera currently trains candidates to fly at high standards, enabling them to serve with MAF in remote places around the world. He also ensures that MAF headquarters operates with safety and

excellence. He enjoys spending time with his lovely wife and three sons, playing music, and flying RC airplanes and rockets.

*The **NAFI Master Flight Instructor Accreditation** is earned by aviation educators based upon a system of advanced professional standards and peer review. The accreditation identifies and publicly recognizes those teachers of flight who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to excellence, professional growth, and service to the aviation community. The NAFI Master Instructor accreditation is for two years and may be used to renew an FAA flight instructor certificate. Applicants must have been a CFI for two years and have given 1,000 hours of flight instruction. In addition, candidates must meet and document activity in four NAFI Master Instructor categories (Instructor, Educator, Service to the Aviation Community, and Professional Activity).*

*Members of the **National Association of Flight Instructors** work as independent instructors, at flight schools, universities, FBOs, corporate flight departments and in the military. Since 1967, NAFI and its members, who teach in thirty countries, are dedicated to increasing and maintaining the professionalism of flight instruction. NAFI members influence active pilots daily: students working to become pilots, current pilots training to advance their skills with new ratings or certificates and pilots who seek to improve their skills with recurrent training. NAFI also serves as an advocate with industry and government as a voice for flight instruction. NAFI helps shape the current and future direction of flight training. For more information about NAFI or the NAFI Master Instructor program call **866-806-6156** or visit www.NAFINet.org.*